

1 **Amendment to the Specification**

2 In the Specification:

3 Please amend the specification as follows:

4
5 On Page 13, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 27 and continuing through
6 Page 14, line 17, with the following paragraph:

7
8 If an invited contact has a current MSN messenger status of "online" and is running an instance
9 of gaming utility 30, the contact will receive an invitation message causing a modal dialog to appear on
10 the contact's screen inviting the contact to join the initiator's chat session. In addition, the contact will
11 receive a verbal invitation over the speakers of his headset. For example, of the three players (Burt,
12 Don, and Chuck) invited by Adam in the foregoing example, Burt is the only contact that has an MSN
13 messenger availability status of "online," and a gaming utility availability status icon 55 indicating that
14 Burt is running an instance of gaming utility 30. This status icon means that Burt is presently logged on
15 to Internet 10 and MSN messenger, is running the gaming utility, and has not selected an availability
16 status that indicates he is unavailable. Accordingly, a modal dialog (not shown) will pop up on Burt's
17 PC 13 displaying an invitation message reading "Adam invites you to join Adam's chat," with accept
18 and decline button options. In addition, Burt will receive an audio message conveying the same
19 invitation message over headphones 29 of Burt's headset 26, followed by "accept?" This function is
20 made possible through a text-to-speech (TTS) capability of the command and control features provided
21 by the gaming utility and hardware functions implemented in Burt's channel controller device 19. In
22 response to receiving the invitation, Burt may select to join or decline the chat session by clicking on
23 a corresponding button in the dialog box. Optionally, a recipient can accept or decline an invitation
24 by toggling his channel controller device to a command and control mode and speaking "Yes" or
25 "No" into the his microphone. Further details of how these functions are handled are disclosed in co-
26 pending application Serial No. [] 09/515,559, entitled ["IMPLEMENTING MULTIPLE
27 AUDIO DATA STREAMS ON A PERSONAL COMPUTER,"] "ENABLING SEPARATE CHAT
28 AND SELECTIVE ENABLEMENT OF MICROPHONE," filed on []
29 February 29, 2000, the disclosure and drawings of which are hereby specifically incorporated herein by
30 reference.